

GOSPEL TO TOILERS URGED AS A DUTY

Protestant Churches Told to
Put on Armor.

MUST REACH WORKING MASSES

Needs Pointed Out by Speakers Before District Sunday School Association—Rev. Joseph T. Watts Speaks on "Layman's Opportunity"—Searchlight on District.

Salvation of the masses, need of carrying the Gospel to the toilers whose hours of labor forbid access to customary church agencies, and failure of Protestant churches to assert themselves in the battle for righteousness were the notes sounded in the great gathering of the District Sunday School Association in the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church last night.

Rev. Joseph T. Watts, secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Conference of Virginia, proclaimed his belief that Protestantism will never receive its rightful heritage until it formulates a plan for carrying the message of Christ to the thousands of toilers.

Layman's Opportunity.

William Knowles Cooper, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. for Washington, deplored the fact that the church was not proving itself the salvation of the masses. He urged the formation of clubs and mission bands to carry the Gospel to toilers whose hours of labor forbid their presence at regular church exercises.

The session opened with devotional exercises by the Rev. Frank J. Goodwin, while the song service was led by James A. MacLennan. President Millan announced the topic of the first address by Mr. Watts to be "The Sunday school as the layman's opportunity." Mr. Watts referred to the high calling of the Sunday school teacher, saying that next to the ministry it was the greatest field of service afforded by the church to its members. He declared that the work of the teacher is not confined within the walls of the school room, but if he entertains the right conception of duty he will carry the word of God to those denied the privilege of Sunday schools and churches.

Mr. Cooper's topic was "The men and religious forward movement." He said the only trouble with Protestant churches is that they fail to assert themselves, and consequently do not exercise the power for righteousness that they might. He told of the progress of the laymen's movement throughout the world, and prophesied a better spiritual life for Washington as a result of the meeting of 2,500 laymen in this city next April under the auspices of the forward movement in religious work.

Mr. Cooper alluded to the standardization of social conditions, and urged that the churches of the city turn the searchlight of their investigations upon the conditions which surround them.

Reports of the teachers' training and adults' departments showed substantial progress made during the past year.

Boy Scout Movement.

The afternoon session was largely devoted to an exposition of the "Boy Scout" movement, and its adaptability to service to the Sunday school. E. S. Martin, executive secretary of the local council of Scouts, speaking on the "National aspect of the Scout movement," told of its origin in America by Ernest Thompson Seton and Daniel Beard.

He said it was made necessary by the rapid influx of population to cities, that the world membership had passed the 200,000 mark, and that the Scouts were in no sense a military organization.

Saying that the slogan of the Scouts is "Be prepared," Mr. Martin declared that the slogan of the Scout movement was to be prepared for service to country and God, and lauded the movement as an incubator of patriotism. He urged cooperation of the Sunday schools in the character building accomplished by the Scouts.

A. M. Chisley, of the Y. M. C. A., and member of the local council of the Boy Scouts, laid stress on the value of "application."

"Manual methods" in the Sunday school, was the topic of Rev. Joseph T. Watts, Sunday school secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. He said that if the political history of countries referred to in the weekly lesson could be studied it would add zest to the Scriptural studies.

Carleton R. Ball, Norton M. Little, Jr.

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In order to advertise and introduce their home study music lessons in every locality, the International Institute of Music, of New York, will give free to our readers a complete course of instruction for either Piano, Organ, Violin, Mandolin, Guitar, Cornet, Banjo, Cello, or Singing.

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